

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday 19th June 2023, 10.15am, The Market House, The Diamond, Clones.

Members Present: The Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Gilliland presided,

The following members were also present: Cllrs: Pat Treanor, Richard Truell, Hugh McElvaney and Seamus Coyle.

In Attendance: Gareth McMahon A/Director of Services, Kevin McNally Municipal District Co-ordinator, Martin Taylor A/Executive Engineer and Gillian Costello Staff Officer.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed all to the first meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones following the earlier AGM.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed May monthly meeting minutes, Cllr Pat Treanor seconded the proposal, and it was agreed by all.

2. Correspondence Sent

Correspondence sent was noted by the members.

3. Correspondence Received

Correspondence received was noted by the members; following discussion it was unanimously agreed the community request received for a Memorial Plaque and an official event to commemorate Senator Billy Fox is fully supported by this Municipal District. The Members expressed their support for Newbliss Childcare request for a crash barrier alongside the facility's play area. Following discussion, it was noted that speeding is an issue on our roads and in support of this and others this Municipal District will write to An Garda Síochána, Roads Policy Inspector regarding speeding incidents in the various urban limits

Proposals arising from correspondence received.

Proposed by Cllr. Richard Truell, seconded by Cllr. Seamus Coyle and unanimously agreed by all.

The motion as passed at the March meeting is resent to Minister Darragh O'Brien T.D., specifically requesting a response on the item of Modular Homes as the response date 31st May 2023 did not address this. It was agreed that the Housing Department Monaghan County Council will be contacted regarding need and site identification which will be included in the correspondence.

On the proposal of Cllr. Richard Truell, seconded by Cllr. Sean Gilliland

"I call on this Council to submit a proposal to the Department of Housing, calling for the introduction and use of modular homes to house families most in need and to take families of the Local Authority Housing list."

For Monaghan County Council to identify derelict sites and suitable sites for the proposed modular homes. I propose the following motion would be sent to Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien, TD, Monaghan County Council Housing Department & all relevant Oireachtas Members locally."

Proposed by Cllr. Pat Treanor, seconded by Cllr. Hugh McElvaney and unanimously agreed by all.

The Municipal District to write to Citizen Information Service Board highlighting the pressure that Clones Family Resource Centre are under, asking them to increase their hours of service at the Library in Clones and that they publish and promote this service throughout the Municipal District.

The Municipal District to write to Monaghan Integrated Development asking them to increase their services in reaction to the LES and Jobs Club, and Social Inclusion Community Activity Programme, and to publish & promote these services in the Municipal District.

4. Report by Municipal District Co-Ordinator.

Ballybay to Castleblayney Greenway

Following receipt of €50,000 of funding under the Outdoor Recreation Scheme the Municipal District has appointed Clandillon Consulting Engineers to progress the Ballybay to Castleblayney Greenway. In order to review the study area and identify the optimum route, public consultation process has commenced on 9th June 2023 to 6th July 2023. This consultation is primarily being held on online and is advertised on the Councils website and social media outlets. An in-person event was held in Doohamlet on Thursday last. The event was well attended with over 40 people attending.

Ballybay

Ballybay Lido

The new lido in Ballybay, a project which was developed by the Town Team was officially opened on 9th June 2023 by the Minister for Social Protection, Rural and Community Development. This project has been delivered from funding received from the Departments Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and match funding from the Municipal District.

Lough Major Boathouse

The refurbished boathouse adjacent to Lough Major in Ballybay, a project which was developed by the Town Team, was officially opened on 9th June 2023 by the Minister for Social Protection, Rural and Community Development. This project compliments the other recent investment in the Town Park. It is intended that the boathouse will be used by a community-based organisation and will complement the facility owned by the Muckno Tri club. This project has been delivered from funding received from the Departments Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and match funding from the Municipal District.

A further €130,000 has been allocated under the Community Recognition fund to upgrade the play equipment at the town park – design work on this project will commence in the coming weeks.

Ballybay Electrical Vehicle (EV) Charging Points

Following detailed discussions with Easygo, new EV charging points have been installed in Ballybay Main Street carpark. These points are now operational. It was previously requested by the members that Age Friendly and Hidden Disability spaces would also be provided at this site. These spaces will be installed in the coming weeks.

Town and Village Streetscape schemes for Clones

Following agreement from the elected members to provide €50,000 of funding shortfall from the Municipal District general allocation to the Clones Streetscape scheme, nearly on the letters of offer have been issued to applicants. Funding of 80% up to a maximum of €3,500 for painting and façade improvements and €4,000 for shop front repair and replacement is available. Works are to be completed by the end of August. It is hoped that when completed, these schemes will have a very positive impact on the town.

Review of the current Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025

On Thursday the 11th of May 2023, Monaghan County Council published a notice of the intention to review the current Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 and to prepare a new Monaghan County Development Plan for the period of 2025-2031. In order to encourage discussion on the key issues facing the County over the next plan period 2025-2031, the Forward Planning team will facilitate drop-in workshops in the five towns in the month of June.

Details of times and venues in the Ballybay Clones Municipal District are:

DATE	VENUE	TIME
TUESDAY JUNE 20TH	CLONES COURT HOUSE, MC CURTAIN STREET, CLONES H23 N290	6-8PM
MONDAY JUNE 26TH	PAROCHIAL HALL, CHURCH STREET, BALLYBAY A75 AC99	6-8PM

These are informal drop-in workshops where you can speak to members of the Forward Planning Team. The Stage 1 (Pre- Draft) Consultation process runs from the 11th of May until the 7th of July 2023. Submissions or observations must be submitted by **5pm on Friday the 7th of July**. There are a number of ways to make a submission: Online via the online form which can be accessed at the Councils website www.monaghan.ie by email to devplan@monaghancoco.ie

In writing to; The Planning Office, No 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan

Roads Programme

Road programme report by Martin Taylor Executive Engineer;

Surfacing works have been completed at LS6201 Corloughroe, Newbliss – Drum, R183 Newbliss to Doapey, and the R188 at Dawson Monument, Rockcorry to Cootehill. New drainage culverts have been installed along the R188 to alleviate flooding at this location. Speed cushions have been installed on the R183 and R189 in Newbliss.

All other roads on the 2023 programme are ready for resurfacing with surfacing works due to commence in July/August.

- LP4004 – Ummerafree Corduff – 1.5km
- LT64022 – Molly Farmers Stranooden – 2.8km
- LT25022 – Packie Fordes Drumgarvey – 1.8km
- LT39001 – Bairds Shore – 1km

The Municipal District crews are currently getting the 2023 Surface Dressing roads ready and should have these completed by the end of June.

Velocity Patching

The Velocity Patcher is currently in the Municipal District working on a programme of defective roads.

Canon's Lane Clones

Works are complete for the widening of Canon's Lane, Clones except for surface dressing which is scheduled for later this summer. Some accommodations works are to be completed as agreed with the landowner.

Drainage Notices

The Municipal District are continually inspecting roads to identify areas where water is running from private lands onto the public road, affecting the condition and safety of the road for road users. A significant number of drainage letters to landowners have been issued. The office have also issued follow up letters where works have not been completed. Technical staff have been making themselves available to meet with landowners to discuss the drainage issues and confirm works requirements.

Public Lighting Drum

Civil Works have been carried out and columns erected and wired for the public lighting at Drum Church of Ireland. This lighting will be energised in the coming weeks following connection from ESB.

Hedge and Verge Cutting

Verge and Hedge cutting along Regional Roads and at junctions has commenced over the past weekend and all junctions tendered shall be cut within the coming 3 – 4 weeks. Problematic junctions have been prioritized for cutting.

Fermanagh Street Micro Park

Craftstudio have been appointed as consultants for Fermanagh Street Micro Park and have been working up a design and are finalising the tender documents for the work. The Municipal District office are currently working with the landowner and a contractor has commenced removing the wall and tidying up of the area.

Weedkilling of streets

Shaffrey Landscaping have completed the first treatment for weedkilling the streets in Ballybay and Clones. Weeds are being killed using an environmentally friendly hot foam stream system.

Drumlin Wind Farm

The Municipal District Office has been working with Energia Renewables and Fox Contracts for works along the identified route to transport turbine components to the site. In the early hours of 14th June, a 71m long turbine transport trial run was successful in navigating the roads through the Municipal District and getting to the Drumlins Park Wind Farm.

Proposals arising from the Municipal District Report

Following discussion among the Members regarding Energia road works i.e., roadside works at Aidan Brady's cross it was noted by staff Energia are obliged to undertake works specified in the planning conditions only. Cllr. Truell proposed Energia are invited to the July meeting, to give a presentation on works. This was unanimously agreed by Members, on the condition there are not too many presentations scheduled for the July meeting alternatively the invite will be extended for the September meeting.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Gilliland, requested that roads not on the works schedule for resurfacing would be maintained with small sections of overlay, this was unanimously agreed by all. It was further noted drainage notices need particular attention as this is the cause of deterioration of road surface.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes.

The minutes of the previous meeting were noted by members and following discussion staff advised Members an archaeology report is being undertaken for Dartery Forest and upon completion this enhancement project will be going to Part 8.

Cllr. Richard Truell addressed the decision agreed by Members at the May Meeting to provide the required match funding through the General Municipal District Allocation for the RRDF Newbliss Digital Hub. Cllr. Truell queried where match funding for other RRDF projects in the County was sourced and if there was potential that match funding would be provided by Monaghan County Council. Following discussions among the Members it was noted that this proposal was unanimously agreed at the May 8th In-Committee meeting. The Members requested that the potential of the Council providing match funding is investigated. Gareth McMahon Director of Services, noted that this item should go to the full Council. He will seek a report from Finance Section for alternative match funding and will discuss this with colleagues and report to the Members at the July meeting.

6. Questions

Cllr. Truell asked:

Question:

I wish to request that Monaghan County Council examine the current roadside parking provisions provided at Ericas Fairy Forest and the Walkabout Cafe (on the border of Co. Monaghan and Co. Cavan)? This amenity area is highly utilised and due to the high numbers of people visiting the park, there are issues with cars parking on the roadside at a dangerous corner to access these amenities.

There is a constant overflow of traffic parking on the side of the road (the R188 Regional Road. As a result, there is a high number of pedestrians crossing at numerous locations along the stretch of road which is dangerous. Could Monaghan County Council come up with a design to make this area safer.

Answer:

The Municipal District office has undertaken a review of this location. The issue is that there is no available space along the public road at this location to provide formalised car parking. The entrance to the forest is already within the 60km/hr zone. Additional land would need to be made available within the grounds itself to provide the required additional parking.

Question:

I wish to request that Monaghan County Council Examine the need for traffic calming measures like cushion ramps on the R 189 Cootehill Road out of Newbliss (within the speed limit zone). It has been reported that vehicles are travelling at excessive speeds in this location and now that the other approach roads into Newbliss have traffic calming measures in place which has really had a major benefit in slowing vehicles down, I feel that this last location should have the same.

Answer:

Monaghan County Council recently have recently undertaken extensive road surface improvement works in the Newbliss area such resurfacing works along the R183 Newbliss to Ballybay Road. These works included the installation of traffic calming speed cushions on this section of road and on the R189, Newbliss to Threemilehouse.

On the R189 Cootehill Road, there are currently Speed limit signage, street lighting, and footpaths with kerbed edges along the approach road into the village. Within the past 2 years, the footpath was extended along with street lighting.

Monaghan County Council will continue to monitor this road following the installation of the recently installed speed cushions in the village and will arrange to have further speed surveys carried out to determine if further actions are required.

Question:

I request Monaghan County Council examine the need for flooding alleviation works on the LS06321 Trinity Chapel Road as this road can be impassable with "Road Flooded" signage in place.

Answer:

To address the flooding at this location, embankments need to be raised at each side of the road, the road raised, drainage installed and resurfaced. Permission would need sought from landowner at each side to build embankments. The Council will seek funding for these works when the opportunity arises.

Question:

I request that Monaghan County Council carry out emergency works on Road LS06272 Drumgrone as this road is in very poor condition.

Answer:

The road has been patched recently but structurally is in poor condition and will need to be put on a future roads programme for full restoration.

Question:

I request that Monaghan County Council immediately undertake verge and grass trimming at junctions exiting on Regional Roads as the grass have grown, leaving visibility very poor at all junctions in our Municipal District.

Answer:

Grass and verge cutting commenced in the Municipal District over the weekend concentrating on junctions. All works will be completed in the coming 3 to 4 weeks.

7. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

The members agreed the following:

Vote of congratulations to Aaron McKenna, Killykespin, Smithborough Co. Monaghan

Lough Egish Rod & Gun Club on winning Division 1 NARGC Clay Target competition & their progression to represent Monaghan in the All-Ireland Finals in July at Esker.

Tydavnet Gun Club on winning first place in Division 2 in the county NARGC competition.

Congratulations to the winners of the Ladies Section, under 21's, Colts, Trainee, Super Veteran. Des Curley a member of Monaghan Rod & Gun Club. Pauline Bannigan a member of Lough Egish Rod & Gun Club. Rory McKenna Tydavnet Rod & Gun Club.

The members expressed their sympathy on the passing of Seamus Carroll, Corleadargan Castleblayney, father of Michael Carroll Council Horticulturalist.

8. AOB

On the proposal of Cllr. Richard Truell, Monaghan County Council seek funding for cleaning and dredging of the Bunnoe River which covers this Municipal District to the Cavan Border. Correspondence to issue to Minister Heather Humphreys, Minister Patrick O'Donovan and all local Oireachtas Members seeking their support for this funding application.

Seconded by Cllr. Sean Gilliland and unanimously agreed by all.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Gilliland, requesting that Ballybay/Clones Municipal District start a scoping exercise for supporting infrastructure for the Marina in Clones, for example camper van sites.

Meeting concluded.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date 17th July 2023